

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JEC PARIS 22067

E.O. 11652: GDS, DECON 8/16/74

TAGS: VS, PINT, SG, CG

SUBJECT: GVN-PRG BILATERALS: 21ST PLENARY SESSION, AUGUST 16, 1973

1. (SUMMARY) IN A LACKLUSTER SESSION, VIEN FOR GVN URGED PRG TO END ITS VIOLATIONS OF PARIS AGREEMENT AND AGREE TO ELECTIONS, WHILE HIEU FOR PRG ALLEGED VARIOUS VGN VIOLATIONS OF THAT AGREEMENT AND ACCUSED US AND GVN OF SENDING SVN "MERCENARIES" INTO CAMBODIA. PRG PRESS SPOKESMAN STRESSED THIS LATTER ACCUSATION, AND ATTACKED GVN FOR LOBBYING TO KEEP PRG OUT OF ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. FRENCH MAY ATTEMPT CHANGE VENUE OF MEETINGS. NEXT MEETING AUGUST 23. (END SUMMARY)

2. IN BRIEF AND GENERAL REMARKS, VGN REP VIEN STATED GVN HAD BEEN MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO ARRIVE AT AGREEMENT WHILE PRG HAD ONLY USED TALKS AS A PROPAGANDA FORUM AND TO PUT FORWARD UNILATERAL DEMANDS. VIEN URGED DRV TO STOP ITS ILLEGAL INFILTRATION OF MEN AND ARMS INTO THE SOUTH, ABANDON ITS EFFORTS AT CONQUEST, END ITS VIOLATIONS OF ARTICLE 20 IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA, AND NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WHICH COULD BRING ABOUT GENERAL

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ELECTIONS IN SVN ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

3. MINISTER OF STATE NGUYEN VAN HIEU FOR THE PRG ACCUSED GVN OF VIOLATING THE CEASE-FIRE, REFUSING TO RETURN CIVILIAN PERSONNEL, AND REFUSING TO GUARANTEE DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES. HE ALSO ATTACKED GVN FOR ALLEGEDLY SERVING AS THE INSTRUMENT OF US AGGRESSION BY THREATENING TO INTERVENE IN CAMBODIA AND BY SENDING INTO CAMBODIA ABOUT TEN THOUSAND ARVN TROOPS DISGUISED AS "MERCENARIES" AND PAID BY THE US.

4. IN AFTERNOON PRESS CONFERENCE PRG SPOKESMAN LY VAN SAU STRESSED ACCUSATION THAT US HAD ORDERED GVN TO SEND MERCENARIES INTO CAMBODIA WHO WERE PAID AND ARMED BY US, AND HE ASSERTED PRG WOULD DRAW THE APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS. WHEN NEWSMEN TRIED TO GET SAU TO CLARIFY THIS VAGUE THREAT HE MERELY EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE "CAMBODIAN PEOPLE" WOULD WIN AND GAVE SUPPORT TO GRUNK, FUNK AND SIHANOUK.

5. SAU ALSO ATTACKED GVN FOR ALLEGEDLY INFRINGING ON THE SOVEREIGNTY OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES BY LOBBYING TO KEEP PRG OUT OF ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, AND STATED PRG WOULD PARTICIPATE "AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL." SAU HAILED DECISION OF SENEGAL TO RECOGNIZE PRG AS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH PARIS AGREEMENT AND CONDEMNED GVN'S SUBSEQUENT BREAKING OF RELATIONS WITH SENEGAL AS A REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE THAT AGREEMENT.

6. (NOTE) GVNDEL SOURCES TELL US FRENCH RECENTLY TOLD THEM (AND PRESUMABLY ALSO PRGDEL) THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD SOON NEED CHATEAU LA CELLE ST CLOUD FOR OTHER PURPOSES AND WOULD LIKE TO MOVE GVN/PRG TALKS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER ON AVENUE KLEBER. GVNDEL WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE PRG BENEFIT FROM GREATER VISIBILITY AND PRESTIGE OF KLEBER SITE AND WOULD PREFER ANOTHER SECLUDED LOCATION OUTSIDE PARIS. SOURCES EXPECT FRENCH TO RAISE QUESTION AGAIN MORE DIRECTLY IN SEPTEMBER.

7. IT WAS AGREED NEXT MEETING WOULD BE HELD AUGUST 23.
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